



Minutes

Roseville Economic Development Authority (REDA) City Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive Monday, July 20, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13.D.021, City Council members, City Staff, and members of the public participated in this meeting electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Roll Call

President Dan Roe called to order a meeting of the Roseville Economic Development Authority (REDA) in and for the City of Roseville at approximately 6:00 p.m. Voting and Seating Order: Willmus, Groff, Etten, Laliberte, and Roe.

Present: President Dan Roe and Board Members Jason Etten, Wayne Groff, and Lisa Laliberte.

Absent: Board Member Robert Willmus

Others Present: EDA Attorney Martha Ingram, Executive Director Pat Trudgeon, Assistant City Manager Rebecca Olson, Community Development Director Janice Gundlach, and Housing & Economic Development Program Manager Jeanne Kelsey

President Roe read a statement from the city regarding anti-racism and crimes that have occurred recently in the city. He thanked the organizers and those who attended the rally held against racism in Roseville, and for staff and Councilmembers attending and showing solidarity for the community. He indicated he personally shared the frustration that many people feel about this happening in the community of Roseville. He thought an expectation that the residents have and should have is that these kinds of acts would not occur in Roseville. There is no question that these acts involve hate and have no place in the community.

Member Groff explained he had many similar comments and even though the city and community are working hard on anti-racism, no one completely understands how a person of color feels when this happens. He thought that the rally was very important, and the city is behind them one hundred percent.

Member Laliberte added that she did not think any of them could fathom who and why people would do any of these acts that are happening in the community. She thought it went without saying that these are things the city does not endorse, support, or can even start to comprehend. She was also struck with the misperception that the Council knew about a lot of these acts and that the Council was not doing anything. She did not know about them until everyone else did on social media. Her question and challenge to them and to staff is can the city start getting reports on a daily or weekly basis if there is anything that is considered a hate crime, or crimes of bias. If the Council could be notified of these things, then the Council can be more responsible in actions and

comments. She also cautioned herself on commenting about any particular crime or investigation because she personally would not want to risk the ultimate prosecution of someone who is guilty of these crimes and would not want anyone to say that a public official made some comment which actually hurt someone's defense and can be used as a way to get out of any charges.

Member Etten thanked President Roe for the statement and indicated he agreed with it. He believes that black lives matter and a lot of this is about an ongoing effort that the city has and it is not a new effort. He thought over the past few years the city has tried to restructure its system by using the Government Alliance and Race and Equity and different outreach efforts. Right now, the city is working with the School District. This is not something the city is done with in any way but rather a progression of growing and changing and making changes that matter to everyone in the community, especially those who are Black, people of color, and people who are indigenous.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approve Agenda

Etten moved, Groff seconded, approval of the agenda as presented.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

4. Public Comment

President Roe reviewed the public comment protocol and asked if anyone wished to address the EDA.

Ms. Kathy Ramundt, 1161 Laurie Road West

Ms. Ramundt suggested the Council commit to reaching out to the people that were hurt to hear from them directly about how the act impacted them, assure them as a city leader that it is not acceptable in Roseville, and ask the person what the city could do to make the community more welcoming. While it should be done soon after the occurrence has happened, there is no time limit on showing compassion and it is not too late for the city to go back to all of the people that received the threatening notes, damaged signs, etc.

Ms. Jennifer Wydell, 1199 Josephine Road

Ms. Wydell explained when she attends a meeting in person, she can see other's faces but on a Zoom meeting, she can see attendees' names but not their faces. She wondered if the city staff could look into how many people are participating in a meeting from the public and those who are comfortable with showing their faces. She supported whole heartedly with Ms. Ramundt about the Council reaching out and speaking to residents directly. She also fervently supported what Ms. Ramundt said that there are several actions the City of Roseville could take that would be really

straight forward to present a more welcoming face to all kinds of people who live, shop, and spend time with friends in the city. She indicated she is new to following politics locally but not nationally and she thought a lot of people are watching more closely now and there is a tipping point. A specific thing she is interested in that pertains to social justice and racial justice is a Human Rights Ordinance that pertain to Roseville. She is also interested in paying attention to the Roseville budget and looking at changing how the funds are distributed, comparing the budget for the parks and police to the budgets for social services. She is really interested in looking at a reparation ordinance, like Ashville, North Carolina. Not in the form of a cash payment but in the form of investing more from the city in Black-owned businesses. She noted she will continue encouraging the Council to take that up as well.

Mr. Etienne Djevi, 1056 Sharon Street West

Mr. Djevi stated he was disappointed in the Council and the city as a whole. He reviewed things that have happened in the past where the Council's actions did not match their words. He indicated when the Council needs to show that they care about a statement made, it is not shown, and their work does not mean much to him. He noted being on the HRIEC (Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission) he has heard from people of color things that they would like the city to do to make them feel welcome. He has proposed projects in the past, only to have them watered down or shut down until this meeting. He indicated he is more interested in action than spoken words because lip services are not doing it for him.

Ms. Huda Yusuf

Ms. Yusuf explained she knows most of the Council from the Imagine Roseville days, back when Philando Castile was murdered. She noted at that time, Imagine Roseville was trying to do some work with the community but that work was shut down by the city with the not guilty verdict of the officer. She remembered having several conversations with Mayor Roe specifically and Mr. Trudgeon. She was pleading and begging the city to not dismantle Imagine Roseville because it was the opportunity for the city to be proactive. She indicated at that time, she remembers telling the Council that with Trump coming into office and internment camps being talked about, she did not feel safe as a Muslim woman from Somali decent and she did not feel safe in Roseville if Imagine Roseville was dismantled. The Council still shut it down and promised it would be reconvened through the HRIEC. The Council also weakened the HRIEC and did not allow an avenue for the residents to specifically say how unsafe they felt in Roseville.

Ms. Yusuf stated she was not sure where the Council feels they have qualifications and the empathy to advocate for Black people in the community because not one of the Council is Black and none of the Council knows the struggles the Black community is going through. She noted the Council had the opportunity to be proactive, and none have the qualifications to run the city. She felt none of the Council have the empathy or the care, suggesting the entire Council should resign at the moment because all life depends on it. She did not think this impacted the Council

because each one is White and are not the ones dying or their kids are dying. She thought the Council lied and does not care about the minorities in the city.

Ms. Cari Gelle, 777 Lovell Avenue

Ms. Gelle stated she sent an email to the Council asking for three things. She asked the Council to fund the HRIEC, give it teeth, and let it do the work it was intended to do. She stated the city needs to continue the conversations and not shut them down or dismantle Imagine Roseville. Those conversations need to continue. She stated Huda and Jamaal need to feel safe at all times. She asked the city to make sure everyone feels safe in the community, no matter the race. She asked the Council to do the work and figure out how to make people feel safe.

Ms. Sherry Sanders

Ms. Sanders asked that the Council take the time to respond to people who are pouring their hearts out to them. She indicated this is important, she shares Huda's fears, and did not feel that the Council cared by their expressions shown and actions taken.

Ms. Keely Vandre, 2458 Holton Street

Ms. Vandre indicated she moved to Roseville four years ago, the same time Philando Castile was murdered. Her whole experience living in the community has been influenced by that one event and largely in a positive way. She met the majority of her friends through the Imagine Roseville conversations that began shortly after, which provided space for healing and constructive and sometimes even radical change. She explained none of the residents wanted to meet each other for that reason and none want to be taking yet another night away from the very limited time spent with families during the pandemic to be fighting system racism at nauseum at the hands of a government the residents feel does not respond to them.

Ms. Vandre noted moving forward to 2020 there has been another murder of a Black man at the hands of police in the community and it feels shockingly like groundhog's day, or even worse that they have gone backwards during this chapter of time in the city. She stated the Imagine Roseville process fizzled out despite hundreds of people dedicated to continuing the work demanding a better continuum. A separation ordinance was voted down during a surge of anti-immigrant rhetoric was spurred by our current President, despite the thoughtful testimony of many residents, many of whom are immigrants themselves.

Ms. Vandre noted that over a dozen applicants to the HRIEC have been discredited and discouraged from civic duty because they were not qualified for a volunteer role. She also felt that many of her comments and those of her friends to government leadership have been given lip service or completely ignored. This is not meant to shame the Council but citizen concerns and anger needs to be heard and reflected upon by the Council and elected leaders as a part of the truth telling and grieving process of people who feel disenfranchised and mistrust that the city leaders do not walk what they talk. The Council owes all of the people who have spent their time over these last

four years, especially those already exhausted by the micro aggressions and trauma daily of being Black and Brown in our society. She supported a deep and public apology and the Council reinstating the Imagine Roseville process in an equitable way, where under represented voices are informed and able to attend with childcare or transportation as the circumstances that warranted the process the first time have only become more critical.

Ms. Vandre stated the Council needs to add an explicit anti-racist and anti-colonist statement to the city mission and it should be posted in public places, including parks and government buildings so that the residents know their rights or what the consequences or racist or biased behavior will be. The HRIEC needs to be fully funded and the commission recruiting process should be moved out the hands of sitting Council Members. She stated that representation matters, noting fifty-seven percent of the School District is non-White and yet there are no people of color in the city's elected leadership. There is a person of color running for office again. She wondered which Councilmember would be willing to resign their seat to ensure that her voice and perspective becomes part of the inclusive city the Council states they inspire to be.

Ms. Jessica Beeler, 2491 Sheldon Street

Ms. Beeler stated she was at the protest yesterday and has been to many protests. She indicated she puts flowers on Philando Castile's grave every year and went to his funeral. She stated her oldest son is African American and has been profiled by the Roseville police many times. She reviewed some of the incidences that have occurred in the city with her son. She thought there was a public health emergency in the City of Roseville when it comes to racism and she did not feel safe in the city. She indicated that Black people do not drive through the City of Roseville if it can be helped. They drive around the city because they are afraid they will be profiled by the police. She felt the city had a lot of work to do.

Mr. John Kysylyczyn

Mr. Kysylyczyn stated he is a thirty-five-year resident of the city, served four years in the Mayor office, and has spent over two decades working in state legislative government. It saddens him to speak on what he considers false news being spread by the Roseville Police Department (RPD) through a social media post and press releases concerning the defacing of political signs on the 900 block of County Road B. After reading highly suspect information from the RPD, he decided to go over to the scene with a tape measure and camera.

Mr. Kysylyczyn stated he was very troubled by what he found as it appeared to him that the RPD is pandering to community politics rather than doing their job in an unbiased fashion. While the signs are located on County Road B as the RPD claims, the property owner does not actually live on County Road B, they live on Gluek Lane, which this is the far backyard of that property. Also, this is not a White on Black crime, as he believed the RPD has implied. This home is owned by a wealthy White family living in a wealthy enclave of homes. He thought it was irresponsible to even

elude that this is anything other than a White on White incident. Attempting to link dead raccoons nearby, including one nailed to telephone pole, is being connected to these political signs, he personally believed is hogwash. First the telephone poles are nowhere near the signs. Second, this area abuts a ten thousand square foot or greater drainage easement that is likely loaded with raccoons. It is common practice for public works or police or other people to shovel dead animals onto the boulevard in areas where homes are not facing the street. Raccoons get hit by cars and die on boulevards all of the time. He stated he could attest to having to shovel a raccoon out onto the boulevard of Larpenet Avenue many years ago. What he found most startling though, is that the signs the RPD say were vandalized are actually illegally located within the public right-of-way. Worse yet, there are three holes dug into the ground above a Century Link phone cable to support permanent 4x4 posts to the signs. In summary, the RPD is conducting a criminal investigation concerning the defacing of signs that are illegally and permanently installed, illegally located in the public right-of-way over public utilities, and what is likely a White on White so-called bias crime. In his opinion, if looking to charge people, one that should be on the list is the people who illegally installed the signs.

Mr. Kysylczyn stated he would also question why county staff has failed to do their job in maintaining right-of-way management. He thought it was preposterous to try to prosecute a White person for damaging illegal signs installed by White people next to a raccoon breeding ground. He stated he did not appreciate what he considered blatant political pandering to the media and the community on this issue. What else bothers him is the precedent this sets. He was concerned if the city allows one group of people to install signs illegally and permanently in the public right-of-way, what stop other people from illegally and permanently installing signs in the public right-of-way. He would appreciate the city enforcing its laws on that.

Ms. Dannah Thompson, 2425 County Road C2 West

Ms. Thompson explained in hearing her neighbor speak, she thought she needed to come and back them up. She thought that Roseville's existence is rooted in racism as it is a first ring suburb, formed by White flight, and it has been that way and sticking to the status quo only upholds the White character Roseville has. We have, as far as she knew had a person of color on the City Council or as a Mayor and it is important to have people who represent the residents' views so even if White, the Council needs to listen to what people are saying. She indicated she ran in 2018 and almost beat one of the Councilmembers by 700 votes and it is not because she did the work because she only had five months to door knock, but because her message resonated with the people. She explained that was the Council's first notice that residents want change in the city and yet nothing was done. When she lost in 2018, she told her husband that there are two things that can come from this. One, things stay the same, which apparently, they have. Or two, maybe the Council would get some ideas from her campaign and steal them. Her ideas are not proprietary. She made her platform based off community input and was hoping the Council would have stolen some of her ideas, or come to her for advice or input on some of the suggestions she had made when she was campaigning.

Ms. Thompson thanked the Mayor, and City Council who made statements about Black Lives Matter because apparently it does not to Councilmember Willmus. Ms. Thompson explained she was really disappointed that after the events that have happened and the rally yesterday, that Councilmember Willmus could not take the time to show up. She thought it was despicable and the attacks that she has personally received from him and his family members only further proves that he does not value Black lives. The Council is majority White and with that being said, when a person of color comes to the Council with input and advice, the Council needs to weigh that input and advice, take it seriously, and come back to the residents with further discussion, negotiations, and implementation. The residents should not have to keep beating at the Council's door, this is their job to reach out to the community. It is the Council's job to follow up with the community when something is brought to them.

Ms. Thompson indicated she did not do this to heckle the Council, she did this because she really wanted the Council to do better and hopes that if she does lose in 2020, the Council will approach her and have a conversation about how change can be made in the city. She noted she has spoken at multiple Council meetings, especially about TIF financing for Reuter Walton because that was an example where the Council could have chosen Brown bodies over White business and quite frankly, there is not a lot of minority-owned businesses. She really does think the Council always prioritized business over people and it is disheartening. Ms. Thompson stated now is the time to start prioritizing people over business, including Black and Brown bodies when there are issues like this. She explained one of the examples, the community has given several. Another thing brought up in the HRIEC is to change the name of Pocahontas Park. She stated if the Council wants a place to start, there is the place.

5. Business Items

a. **Adopt Resolution Authorizing Entering Into a Private Redevelopment Contract And LCDA Loan With CommonBond, Including Subordination Of Documents – Owasso Gardens Affordable Senior Housing**

Housing and Economic Development Program Manager Jeanne Kelsey provided a brief summary of this request as detailed in the staff report and attachments dated July 20, 2020.

CommonBond was present at the meeting to answer questions.

President Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one indicating a desire to speak to this issue.

Etten moved, Groff seconded, adoption of REDA Resolution No. 67 entitled, "Resolution Approving Contract for Private Development and LCDA Loan Documents with CB Owasso Gardens Limited Partnership."

Member Etten indicated there was a lot of discussion when this item came before them previously but he would say this again, that this is an important part of the community and there are a number of seniors in the city that cannot afford these other very expensive places that have gone up in Roseville so this is a critical part of providing housing for all people in the community.

Member Groff concurred and indicated affordable housing in Roseville is getting harder to find and he thought this helps the city make some progress in that direction.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Etten moved, Groff seconded, adoption of REDA Resolution No. 68 entitled, "Resolution Approving Subordination of Contract for Private Development and of LCDA Loan Documents Between the Roseville Economic Development Authority, CB Owasso Gardens Limited Partnership, and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency."

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

b. Discuss Roseville Business and Resident COVID Relief Programs

Housing and Economic Development Program Manager Jeanne Kelsey provided a brief summary of this request as detailed in the staff report and attachments dated July 20, 2020.

President Roe noted the source of the funding is the CARES Act Funding from the Federal Government that was disbursed to the State by a formula that led to the City of Roseville being in receipt of \$2.7 million dollars. The funding can be used to offset additional city costs related to COVID 19. He noted the city has identified costs in that regard. The city has not identified costs that meet \$2.7 million to this point, which is why staff is looking at the potential to use this funding for this type of relief.

Member Etten thanked staff for working on this. He appreciated that staff has gone on to find community partners like Open to Business and CAP because those groups know this work, can move more quickly to help people, and bring expertise that the city may not have experience in. He explained his one question is as he worked on the Ramsey County Food and Security Subcommittee, one of the things found was that a lot of families who need help now cannot get it because they do not qualify due to using 2019 taxes. He asked if there was any way CAP can see about sorting through that.

Ms. Kelsey indicated the way the city would look at this is to verify the income loss by paystubs and comparing 2019 paystubs to 2020 paystubs. The biggest thing is that it needs to be related to COVID relief or loss of income due to job or reduction in hours. It is recommended that is one way to do it, but she would also like to defer to CAP.

Mr. Kevin Adams and Brook Walker, CAP, were at the meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Adams explained CAP has not gone as far as the comparison of the loss in income. Traditionally, in a lot of the programs, the last three months' worth of income is used and averaged out. If a person applies and is not eligible, that person could wait a month and apply again in case there were higher wages at the beginning of that period. He explained there are many ways it can be done. CAP does accept tax returns, but CAP also understands that tax returns may be difficult to obtain. CAP would work with the individual to obtain proof of that loss of income in any way possible.

Ms. Brook Walker explained one of the things discussed with staff was a goal of reaching households that were not at a high wealth. That was the idea around the tax return not just showing the loss of income but also making sure CAP is reaching households that do not have a great amount of assets without the ability to do an asset test. She would defer to staff to comment a little more on that but to Mr. Adams' point, CAP could make a decision to look at the last thirty days or the last ninety days to make them eligible and be at or below four hundred percent for those who have lost income.

Member Laliberte indicated she understood the city cannot use CARES funding for revenue loss but she did not think anyone thinks the city is done accumulating expenses for the city's response to this because this is not nearly over. She asked if there is some thought to an accounting of what the city has identified at this point for expenses of the city and some amount going forward or is there a timeline in which that gets cut off and the city cannot account for expenses after a certain date. The only reason she was asking, is because a city survey was done and the city heard from the community that taxes are a big concern. So, if the city is going to continue to have expenses related to COVID, and use those funds for that purpose and not have to raise taxes to cover losses, that is of concern.

President Roe noted \$2.7 million has been awarded to the city and \$1.5 million will be used for these programs, as he understood, on the high end. So, the city would have \$1.2 million available to cover its expenses but he thought there was also a November deadline.

Mr. Trudgeon indicated there is a November 15 deadline by which the funds need to be spent. He noted the city is still calculating what the costs are and

there is a lot of the uncertainty on what is eligible for funding. He noted at this point, the city has approximately \$125,000 in direct expenses and are in fairly good shape right now. But if this continues, additional expenses will be made for PPE and other supplies.

Member Groff thought it was a good idea and looked like a well thought out program.

President Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one indicating a desire to speak to this issue.

Laliberte moved, Etten seconded, authorizing staff to advance contract discussion and negotiations with Open for Business and CAP to administer COVID relief programs as described herein.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Motion carried.

- c. Discussion Regarding The Budget and Preliminary Levy Collectible in 2021**
Community Development Director Janice Gundlach provided a brief summary of this request as detailed in the staff report and attachments dated July 20, 2020.

Member Etten explained Ms. Gundlach and he exchanged emails and he asked about the reduction. He thought the Council would have a lot of discussion around how the city pares back its budget or level it as much as possible and it was a really good move to use some of the funds from permits and fees for this. He noted one of things discussed, is what other programs should the city be considering for the \$40,000. Even if the levy is left at a zero percent increase, instead of dropping it, there are housing things that could be talked about and he would not be prepared to set this as a lower levy amount until further discussion is held. He thought it was too soon to make cutbacks.

Member Laliberte concurred and indicated the Council usually considers this information along with a lot of other conversations the Council has yet to go over. She appreciated the reduction proposal but until the Council has the entire bigger picture, did not feel the need to act on this yet.

Member Groff agreed and was fine with waiting on the final decision but was leaning towards looking carefully at the budget this year with COVID impacts. He thought the city had to be really careful with any new programs added and needed to have really good purpose.

President Roe pointed out the timeframe for action by the Council is the end of September and more conversation could be held between now and that deadline. He understood the notion of not wanting to necessarily hem themselves in too

much by endorsing the reductions without knowing some of the other factors. The other piece of this is because of the smaller growth in residential values versus commercial value in 2020, the impact of keeping the levy the same results in a reduction in what a residential property might pay on their tax. Reducing the levy is even more productive for residential property owners, which factors into it as well.

President Roe offered an opportunity for public comment with no one indicating a desire to speak to this issue.

6. **Adjourn**

Groff moved, Etten seconded, adjourning the REDA meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Ayes: 4


Nays: 0

Motion carried.

ATTEST:



Patrick Trudgeon, City Manager



Daniel J. Roe, President